



March 15, 2021

Via ECF



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The Honorable Katharine H. Parker
United States Magistrate Judge
United States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street
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Re: Nespresso USA, Inc. v. Williams-Sonoma, Inc., 1:19-cv-04223-LAP-KHP

Dear Judge Parker:

Pursuant to Section III(d) of the Court's Individual Practices and for the same reasons cited in the Letter Motion to Seal excerpts of the January 29, 2021 Hearing Transcript (Dkt. No. 115) that the Court granted (Dkt. No. 117), Williams-Sonoma, Inc. ("WS") respectfully requests to make redactions to the transcript of the Telephone Conference hearing that occurred on March 4, 2021 (the "Hearing Transcript"). The Hearing Transcript contains highly sensitive, non-public information concerning the discussions that took place during the parties' confidential settlement negotiations in 2020 and future settlement negotiations. Therefore, WS respectfully requests that the Court order the Hearing Transcript sealed in part, such that only the redacted transcript be made publicly available and that the transcript in full be maintained under seal.

Consistent with the Court's Individual Practices to limit filings under seal to the information that is strictly necessary to avoid harm to the designating party, WS seeks to seal only the specific confidential information related to the parties' discussions during their settlement negotiations and potential future settlement negotiations. As set forth below, these proposed redactions are consistent with the Second Circuit's opinions in *Lugosch v. Pyramid Co. of Onondaga*, 435 F.3d 110 (2d Cir. 2006) and *Bernstein v. Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman LLP*, 814 F.3d 132 (2d Cir. 2016).

Pursuant to *Lugosch*, the Court must first assess whether the documents at issue are "judicial documents." 435 F.3d at 119. Once the Court has made that determination, it must assess the weight of the presumption of public access to the documents under the common law and the First Amendment, and then, it must weigh the presumption of public access against any competing interests, such as the privacy interests of the party resisting disclosure. *Id.* at 119-20.

While WS does not dispute that the Hearing Transcript is a judicial document, the



information that WS seeks to seal relates to material entitled to protection under Rule 408 of the Federal Rules of Evidence. As such, the presumption of public access is low. See, e.g., *Travelers Indem. Co. v. Liberty Medical Imaging Associates, P.C.*, No. 07-CV-2519 (CPS)(JMO), 2009 WL 962788, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 8, 2009) (“[I]n this case, the parties’ mutual interest in maintaining the confidentiality of settlement negotiations outweighs the general public interest in disclosure of the particulars of judicial proceedings, especially given the apparent lack of prejudice to any particular party should the record remain sealed.”) (declining to unseal portions of submissions that contained “specific information concerning confidential settlement agreements”); *Government Employees Ins. Co. v. Lurie*, 15-CV-05199 (MKB) (RLM), 2019 WL 276201 *1 n.2 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 22, 2019) (noting that “confidential settlements” were filed under seal); *Perez v. Beres Bar & Pub, Inc.*, No. 16-CV-1729 (ILG), 2016 WL 8711057, at *3 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 4, 2016) (sealing “defendant’s response” that improperly “disclosed information concerning the parties’ confidential settlement communications” and granting “plaintiff’s request to seal his Motion to Strike”). Here, the redactions are applied narrowly only to specific information that was discussed during the parties’ settlement negotiations and information related to future confidential settlement negotiations, and the presumption of public access is therefore low.

Turning to the second portion of the *Lugosch* test, WS has significant privacy interests in the information concerning the parties’ confidential settlement negotiations.

As such, WS’s proposed redactions to the Hearing Transcript are appropriate and narrowly tailored to protect WS’s interests under *Lugosch*, 435 F.3d at 120, and WS respectfully requests that the Court redact and seal the identified portions therein.

Concurrent with this letter motion and in accordance with Section III(d) of the Court’s Individual Practices, WS is contemporaneously electronically filing under seal a copy of the unredacted Hearing Transcript with the proposed redactions highlighted.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Court agrees that the transcript at ECF No. 144 should be redacted, but only to the extent proposed by Defendant. Accordingly, Defendant must submit the Southern District’s Redaction Request Form to the Court Reporter by March 29, 2021.

SO ORDERED:

Katharine H. Parker
HON. KATHARINE H. PARKER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Date: March 16, 2021



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Cc: All Counsel of Record via ECF